

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated November 16, 2004.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,552,813 (Yacoub). However, this rejection does not present a prima facie case of anticipation since Yacoub does not disclose key aspects of the claimed invention as claimed in claims 1-14. Claims 1, 7, & 10-14 and claims dependent thereon, all claim the element of “sending said print task to a print processor” or an equivalent element. This element is not disclosed in Yacoub. The examiner cites Yacoub (col. 6, lines 46-60) as disclosing this element, however, this element is not disclosed at this point or any other point within the reference. Yacoub, at this point (col. 6, lines 46-60) describes a method of requesting a print job (line 46), selecting print job parameters (line 55) and spooling the print job to a server (lines 57-58). Yacoub does not, at any point, disclose the use of a *print processor* for printer status checking, print job routing or print job error recovery. The print processor is a specific print system component that, unlike a printer driver, is not printer specific. A print processor can be designed to work with many types of printers while a printer driver is specific to a single printer or limited printer group. Accordingly, the modified print processor described in claims 1-14 is a specific component that allows its functionality to be used across a spectrum of printers.

The print processor may also be implemented as a client device that may be implemented in a “server-less” system or outside the server in a server-based system. Yacoub teaches a server-based system. Figures 4 & 5 in Yacoub show a system with a server. The print processor systems and methods claimed in claims 1-14 do not require the added expense and complexity of a server as disclosed in Yacoub and are, therefore, functionally distinct from the teachings of

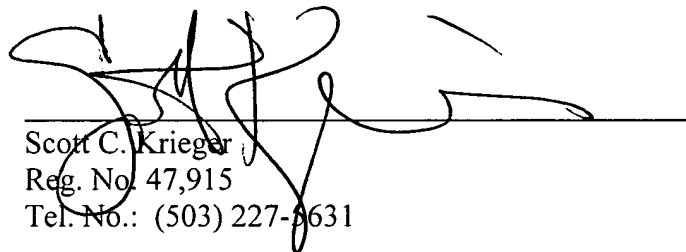
Yacoub. The print processor of the present invention described in claims 1-12 and 14 is not equivalent to the virtual printer or server taught in Yacoub. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 14 & 15 are patentable in their present form.

Claim 13 is cancelled without prejudice simply to focus on other embodiments of the present invention.

Claim 15 has been added to more specifically claim particular embodiments described therein. Claim 15 comprises an additional novel element in that it claims reconfiguration of a print task into a new quantity of modified print tasks when an error occurs during printing. This is not disclosed in the prior art.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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